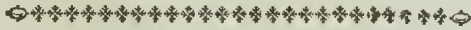


DIDELPHIS OBESULA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Dentes numerosi, parvi.

Folliculus abdominalis. (feminæ.)

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

DIDELPHIS subferruginea, subtus albescens, cauda longiuscula, pedibus anticis pentadactylis, ungue exteriore utrinque brevissimo; posticis tetradactylis, digitis interioribus unitis.

Macropi potius quam Didelphidis species.

Australasiam incolit hæc species, crassior et pinguior reliquis congeneribus. Crura posteriora anterioribus longiora, pedesque eodem fere more formati quo pedes *Macropi gigantei*, vulgo *Kangaroo* nominati; licet minor longe sit digitus intermedius pro rata proportione pedis. Digniti duo interiores utrinque conjuncti, seu cute communi vestiti. Magnitudo animalis eadem prope est ac *muris Ratti* Linnæani, semiadulti. Color pallido-fusco-flavescit. Pilus crassior et asperior quam aliarum plerarumque minorum Didelphidum. Aures rotundatæ. Cauda lon-

longiuscula. Si obiter et in transitu aspiciatur hæc Didelphis, non absimilis videtur porcello minutulo. Hanc speciem primo observavi in Museo celeberrimi Joannis Hunteri, unde figura hæc nostra vera magnitudine depingitur. Iconas quoque nonnullas vidi quas depingi curaverat Dominus White, coloniæ Britannicæ, vulgo dictæ *Botany Bay*, chirurgus primarius; quique specimen supra dictum Domino Huntero donavit.



A. A. 1°

THE
PORCULINE OPOSSUM.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Teeth numerous, small.

Abdominal Pouch in the female.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Subferruginous OPOSSUM, whitish beneath, with longish tail; the fore-feet pentadactylous with very small exterior claws; the hind-feet tetradactylous with the two interior toes united.

In reality it is more properly a species of Macropus than Didelphis.

This species, hitherto undescribed, is a native of New Holland, and is remarkable for a thicker or more corpulent habit than others of the genus. The hind legs are considerably longer than the fore-legs, and have, in miniature, the form of those of the Kangaroo and some other Australasian quadrupeds; though the middle claws are far less in proportion: the interior ones are double, or both covered by a common skin. The size of this species is nearly
that

that of a small or half-grown domestic rat. Its color is a pale yellow-brown, and its hair is of a coarser or more harsh appearance than in the rest of the smaller Opossums: the ears are rounded: the tail rather long. When viewed in a cursory manner the animal bears a distant resemblance to a pig in miniature. I first observed this species in the Museum of the late Mr. John Hunter, and from the specimen there preserved the present figure is taken. It is represented in its natural size. I have also seen drawings of the same species in the collection of Mr. White, Chief Surgeon to the Settlement at Botany Bay, who presented the above-mentioned specimen to Mr. Hunter.